

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention relates to slide storage mechanisms, and, more particularly, to an apparatus and method of storing slides in a non-overlapping arrangement, such as an angled, offset or fanning arrangement.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Medical professionals and technicians utilize glass or plastic test slides to conduct various cytological testing and analyses. Slides are typically stored in and dispensed ~~dispersed~~ from a storage mechanism, such as a cartridge.